

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

November 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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MICHIGAN, West

MIZ077>081

Berrien - Cass - St. Joseph - Branch - Hillsdale

11	2100EST	0	0	Lake Effect Snow
12	1000EST			

A cold front moved across western Lower Michigan during the early morning hours of November 12th, resulting in a lake-enhanced snow event which began late evening, Tuesday, November 11th. In general, 1 to 5 inches of snow fell across western and southern Lower Michigan, with 3 to 5 inch amounts confined to Lake, Ottawa, Kent, Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Ingham, and Kalamazoo Counties. The snow-covered and icy roads caught many overnight and early morning motorists by surprise. Slippery conditions are believed to have contributed to a seven-car pile-up on the northbound span of the U.S. 31 drawbridge late Tuesday night in Grand Haven. Two injuries were reported. The snow initially melted on road surfaces overnight, then froze early Wednesday morning as temperatures fell below freezing. This resulted in extremely icy conditions and an unusually high number of minor accidents, which included many slide-offs into ditches. Accidents with injuries were reported in Battle Creek, St. Joseph and Cass Counties, Hillsdale County (a rollover accident), and Branch, Mecosta, Oscoda, and Newaygo Counties. Snow reports included 5.0 inches in Grandville, 4.8 inches at the National Weather Service Office in southeast Grand Rapids, 4.5 inches in Hudsonville, 3.6-4.0 inches in Allegan, 3.2 inches in Hastings, 3.0 inches in Oshtemo, 3.0 inches in East Lansing, and 1.5 inches in Battle Creek.

MIZ080

Branch

13	2200EST	0	0	Snow
14	1000EST			

The first significant snow of the season caused slippery road conditions which contributed to 5 traffic accidents and 2 resultant injuries. Snowfall accumulations of 2 to 2.5 inches were reported across Branch County and the city of Coldwater.

MIZ080>081

Branch - Hillsdale

15	0700EST	0	0	Snow
	2100EST			

Low pressure tracked across southern Lower Michigan on Saturday, November 15th, and produced a band of light snow. Snow accumulated 3 to 4 inches across Branch, Jackson, and Hillsdale Counties during the 14 hour period. Two weather-related traffic accidents were reported in Union City in Branch County. One minor injury was associated with one of the accidents.

MIZ077>078

Berrien - Cass

15	1800EST	0	0	Lake Effect Snow
16	1000EST			

An intense band of lake effect snow developed down the length of eastern Lake Michigan in a north wind flow and resulted in snow accumulations of 6 to 18 inches across far western Van Buren County and most of Berrien County. As the wind flow turned slightly more northwest during the morning hours of Sunday, November 16th, lake effect snow bands moved further inland across western Ottawa, western Allegan, central Van Buren, and Cass Counties. Snow totals in these areas ranged from 2 to 5 inches by the time the lake effect diminished. The worst conditions were felt across southwest Berrien County, where storm accumulations reached 18 inches in the New Buffalo-Sawyer areas. The weight of the heavy, wet snow downed tree limbs and power lines which cut power to 3,000 American Electric Power customers in southwest Berrien County. Snow reports included 13 inches in Baroda, 12 inches in St. Joseph and Coloma, 11 inches in Buchanan, 10 inches in Stevensville, 6 inches in South Haven, 4.7 inches in Holland, and 4.5 inches in Fennville.